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Letter dated 18 December 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to the letter from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo dated 13 December 2002 (S/2002/1360), I have the honour to inform you as follows:

1. What is stated in the letter has absolutely no basis in truth and is not founded on any genuine data or facts. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has no troops in Congolese territory and denies supplying any military support to the Mouvement de Libération du Congo.

2. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has made, and is making, ongoing efforts for peace and security in Africa generally, and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic in particular. It has participated in a positive spirit in the African summits held to this end and has also hosted more than one African mini-summit devoted to this purpose, namely:

(a) The first summit, held on 30 September 1998 and attended by the Presidents of Chad, the Niger and Eritrea;

(b) The second summit, held on 18 April 1999 and attended by the Presidents of Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea and Chad;

(c) The third summit, held on 8 May 1999 and attended by the Presidents of the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

3. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has provided backing and material support to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which recognizes the volume and value of the support afforded to it. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has also welcomed the reconciliation agreement which the Congolese Government has arrived at with the other Congolese parties, and it has participated in all the conferences held at Lusaka and elsewhere with the aim of applying this agreement, the provisions of which are being implemented within the framework of the United Nations.

4. It is a known fact that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has some personnel, not numbering more than 100 in all, among the troops of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) present in the Central African Republic. They are there at the request of its legitimate Government, in implementation of the decision of the CEN-SAD summit held at Khartoum on 4 December 2001 and also on the basis of

the communiqué issued by the Central Organ of the Organization of African Unity Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution at its session held in Tripoli at the foreign-ministerial level on 26 January 2002, which was approved by the Durban Summit in July 2002. These forces do not have any heavy weapons, tanks or the like. They are provided only with light weapons and small Marchetti-C reconnaissance aircraft. These forces will be withdrawn shortly, following deployment of the forces of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community.

5. The whole world knows what the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is doing to resolve problems within the African continent and to put an end to conflicts there, including putting an end to the civil war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

6. With regard to the landing of two Libyan transport aircraft in Gbadolite, that was done in order to prevent any accident when the Bangui airport was threatened. The purpose was to transport troops from the Sahel-Saharan States and Libyan nationals, which is what other States did when they sent aircraft to transport their nationals via the Gbadolite airport.

7. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya reaffirms its support for the unity, stability and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and stresses once again that the allegations concerning a Libyan presence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are false. The United Nations can verify that by such means as it deems appropriate, including the sending of a fact-finding mission for the purpose.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ahmed A. **Own**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.